



BRIEFING NOTE TO THE DEPUTY MINISTER

UPDATES TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE ECONOMIC ACCOUNT

(For Information)

ISSUE

- To provide an update on the November 29, 2019 release and data revisions of the Infrastructure Economic Account (INFEA) made by Statistics Canada.

KEY MESSAGES

- Statistics Canada developed INFEA in partnership with Infrastructure Canada (INFC) to provide information on public and private infrastructure investment, stock and economic contribution through data tables and the Infrastructure Statistics Hub, an online interactive data hub. INFEA data are derived from the Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts, which are used to measure economic activity in Canada. INFEA data are currently available for 2009 to 2018.
- INFC uses INFEA to report on: public and private investments in infrastructure; the economic contribution of these investments in terms of GDP and jobs; and the remaining useful life of infrastructure assets.
- As with all data in the Canadian System of Macroeconomic Accounts, figures that feed into INFEA are regularly revised. In using INFEA to communicate, the latest figures should always be used.
- The November 29, 2019 release of INFEA incorporates new data for 2016 through 2018 and shows that:
 - **Investment was higher than previously estimated:** In 2018, \$89.6 billion (up from \$85.8 billion) was invested in infrastructure. These investments were associated with over 617,000 jobs (up from 585,500).
 - **Since 2015, public investment in infrastructure has increased by 19% (up from 12%).**
 - **Public investment in infrastructure is growing faster than private investment:** In 2018, public infrastructure investment was 69% of the total investment (up slightly from 68%).

- **The stock of infrastructure was lower than previously estimated:** In 2018, Canada's total stock of infrastructure was \$839.2 billion (down from \$850 billion).

BACKGROUND

- INFEA is an important component of INFC's Data and Research Strategy, providing context for infrastructure investments and supporting evidence-based decision-making.
- INFEA was first released in 2018 as the first comprehensive set of data available on public and private investments in infrastructure in Canada. INFEA includes annual data by industry, infrastructure asset and function of government, for Canada and all provinces and territories. In addition to investments, data are available for:
 - The monetary value of the stock of infrastructure;
 - The impact on GDP of investments in infrastructure;
 - The number of jobs associated with investments in infrastructure; and
 - The remaining useful life of infrastructure assets, calculated as a ratio to normalize the various lifespans of assets, allowing for comparability.
- New data for INFEA are available annually. However, INFEA is revised quarterly to ensure coherence with key inputs, such as the quarterly GDP numbers released by Statistics Canada.
 - The November 29, 2019 revisions are due to the release of the 2016 Supply-Use tables, updated investment data, and new stocks, flows and price indexes from the capital stock program.
 - The largest revisions to investments were in transportation engineering infrastructure (2018), and sewage and waterworks infrastructure (both in 2016).
 - Stock was revised slightly down as a result of revised price indexes and asset mixes.
- INFC is working with Statistics Canada toward releasing data on:
 - GHG emissions associated with investments in infrastructure;

- Investments in environmental and clean technology as inputs to infrastructure production; and
- Infrastructure labour force demographics and job characteristics (e.g., hours worked and full- or part-time status) through a human resources module.

NEXT STEPS

- You may wish to share this information with the Minister's Chief of Staff, and we could follow up with a briefing on infrastructure statistics.
- Statistics Canada will update INFEA quarterly with the next release taking place on February 28, 2020.
- INFC will update its communication products, as required, to reflect the latest INFEA data.

Gerard Peets
Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Results Branch

Date